

REMEMBER
CRAIG
LOUGHRIDGE



1988

#11

image

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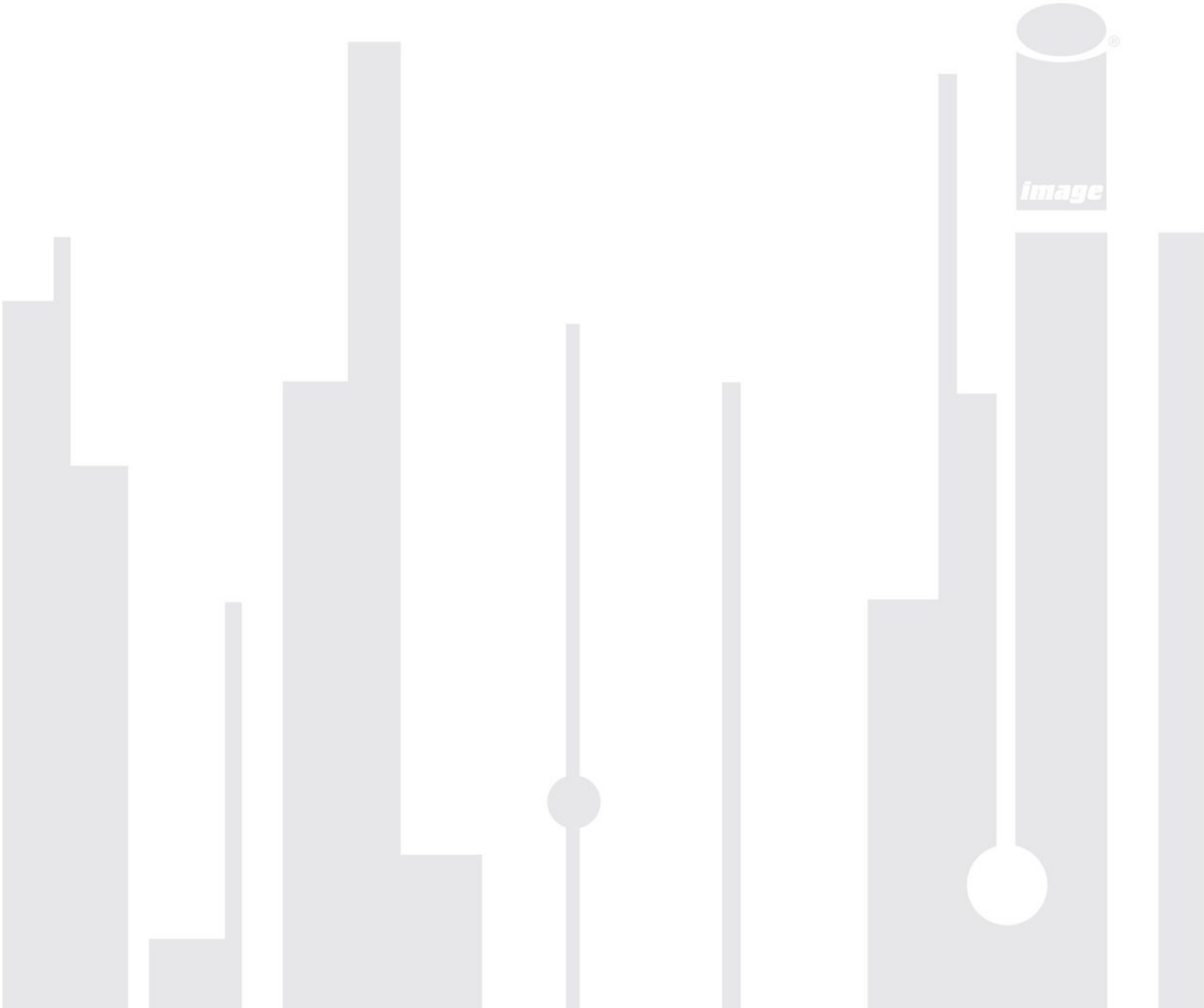
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DEADLY CLASS created by Rick Remender & Wes Craig

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THERE'S A SLEEPY DREAM-LIKE QUALITY TO MY LIFE.

LIKE IT'S NOT REALLY MY LIFE.

LIKE IT'S ALL JUST PRACTICE.

BUT THE REDNECK SMACKED OUT ON ANGLE DUST: **REAL ENOUGH.**

THE SWORD OPENING MY THROAT: **TRÈS REAL.**

AND FUCKING MARIA REALLY ISN'T GOING TO HELP--

GOING TO LET ME DIE OVER A BOY.

AIN'T NO MOUNTAIN HIGH ENOUGH, AIN'T NO VALLEY LOW ENOUGH--TO KEEP ME AWAY FROM YOU!

LET ME DIE FOR DOING HER THE BIGGEST FAVOR EVER.

FIRE IN THE HOLE!



ALRIGHT,
YOU TRAILER
PARK PAINT-
HUFFERS--



--GET
READY
TO MEET
SKYNARD--



OOF---!



GO,
MAN!

SOUNDS LIKE
FUCKING
BEIRUT IN
THERE!

BOMB
DIDN'T DO
SHIT!



DOOR'S
THICKER
THAN WE
THOUGHT.



KWLINGG



OH,
GODDAMN
SON OF A
FUCK...

"YA'LL EXPECTIN'
COMPANY?"





AH,
FIDDLESTICKS--



FSHHHH--



OOF--!



YOU
MOTHER
FUCKER--





--YOU WERE GOING TO LET HER KILL ME!

YOU WERE MY BEST FRIEND!

I LOVE HIM!

EXACTLY WHY THAT SHIT HAS TO END.

TWO O' YOU PRETTIES FORGETIN' SOMEONEZ!



SUE ANN LIKES TO FUCK AN' DANCE AN' SKITTER AN' HOWL AN'--



URKK--



IT'S TIME TO GROW THE FUCK UP, MARIA!

YOU'RE GETTING SOFT.



PEOPLE DON'T FALL IN LOVE.



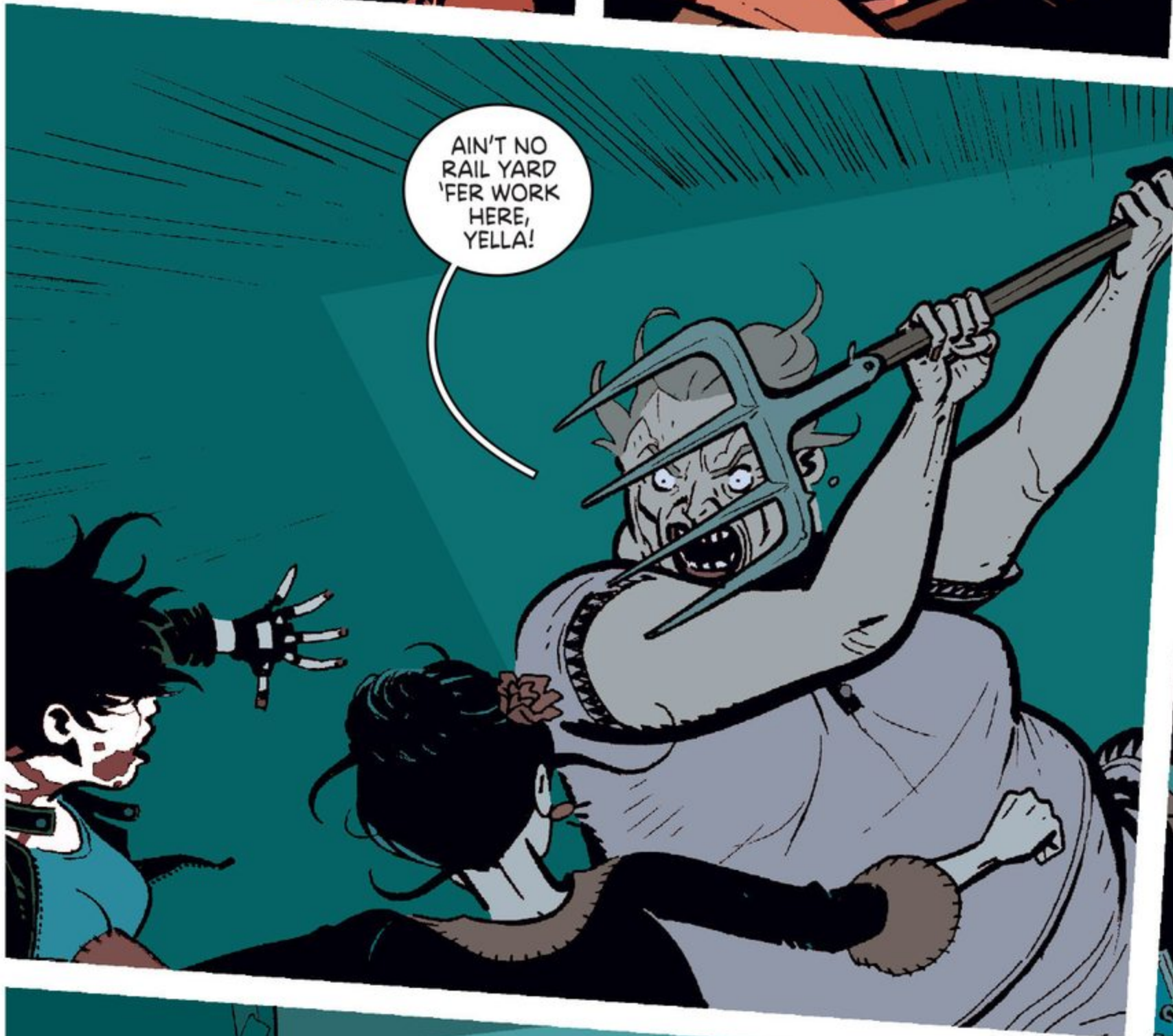
SURE THEY DO.

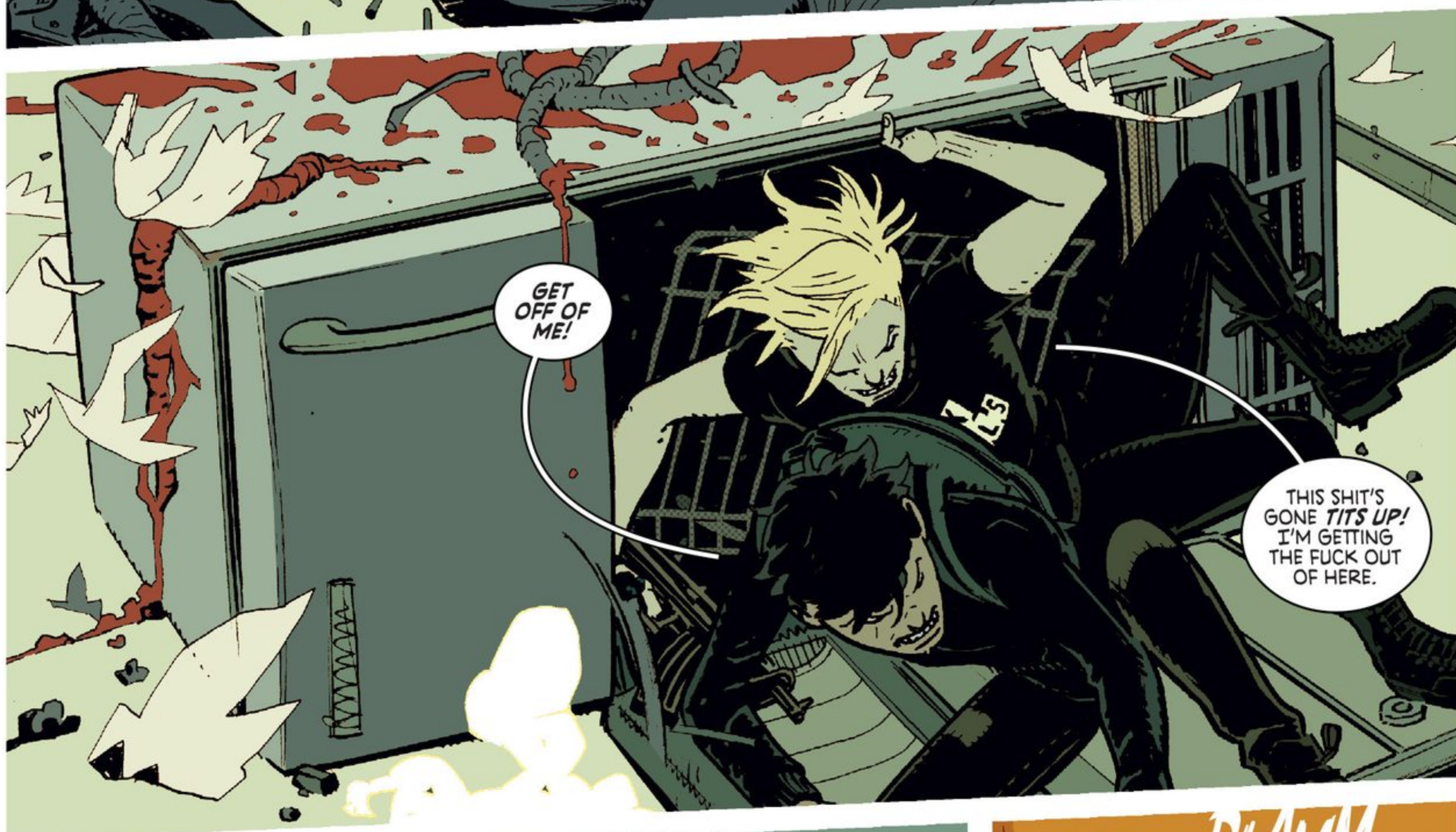


JUST NOT WITH YOU!

KRAK

UNG--!









SAYA'S RIGHT.

YOU NEED
SOMEONE
TO HATE--

CRK!



--TO FUEL THE
MACHINE.

GLORK--!

TWUKK



MANIPULATION: THAT BULLSHIT
ABOUT KILLING CHICO FOR HIM--

YHRAAAA~!

YOU'D HAVE KILLED
CHICO ANYWAY.



BUT YOU USED IT TO
GUILT TRIP MARCUS
INTO STAYING.

GHRAGH!



THE BOY YOU THINK
WILL FINALLY BE DECENT--



--AND THE FRIEND YOU THINK
YOU CAN FINALLY COUNT ON.

KRESHH





REAL LIFE BAD
HORROR MOVIE.

HATE THE DARK.

HATE NOT BEING
IN CONTROL.

HE'S DOWN HERE--

--SOMEWHERE--

--WITH ME.

GHA--!

BARK
BARK

BARK

BARK
BARK

HIS DOGS... JESUS...

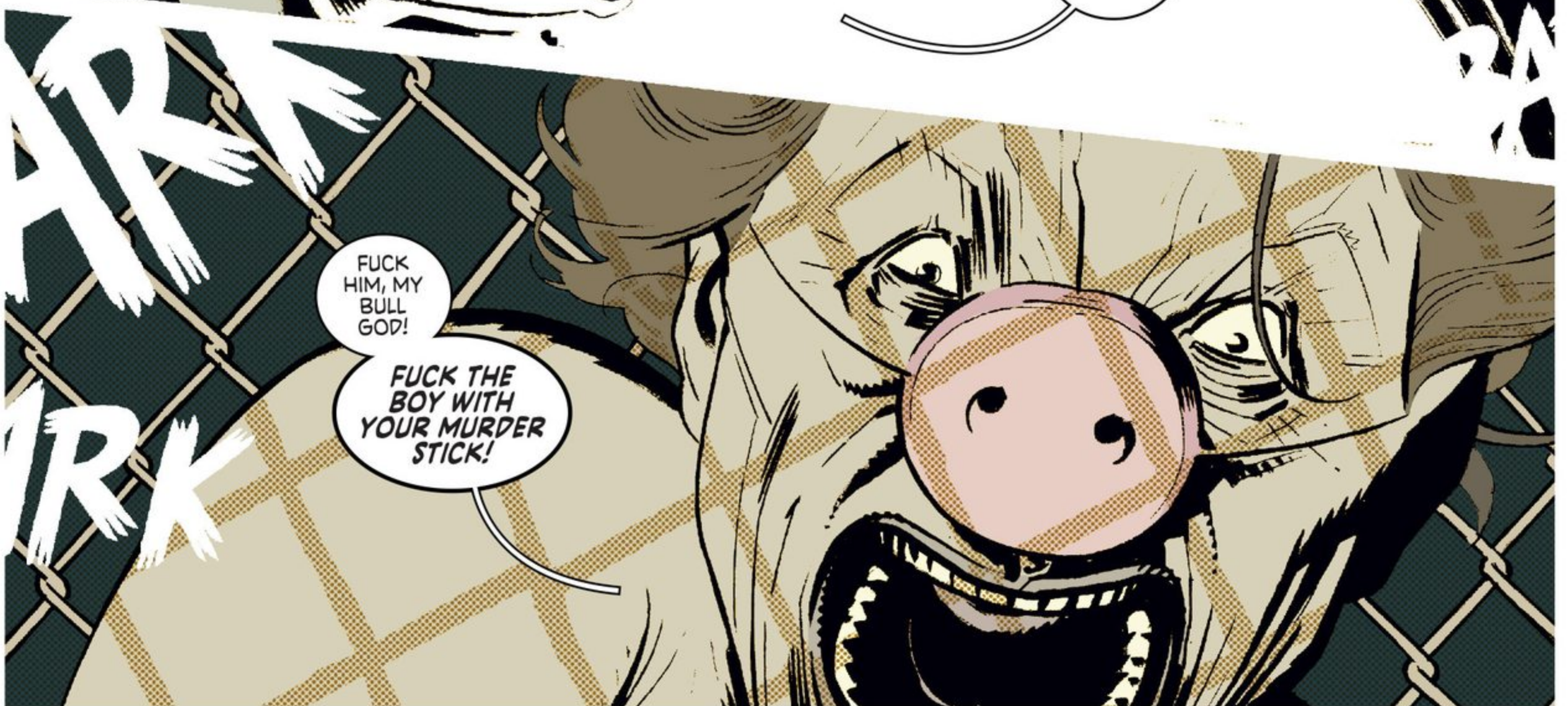
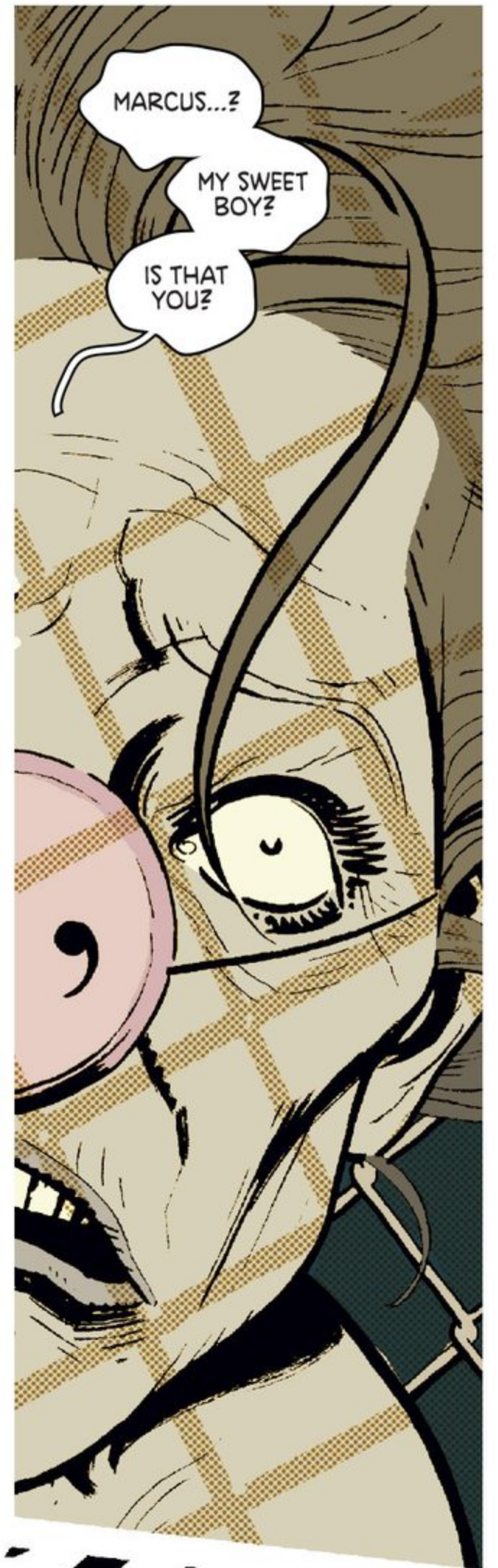
DON'T THINK ABOUT THAT.

DON'T PICTURE THAT--

WHO...

WHO'S
THERE...?

BARK
BARK
BARK
BARK







YOU HATE US FOR OUR SIMPLE WAYS.

KWOK

URKK



OUR PURE COUNTRY ETHICS.

OUR EARNEST CONNECTION WITH THE EARTH.



YOU DECRY MY SOFT NOBILITY--



--BUT I AM A MESSIAH!



PROPHET OF THE HILLS!



I AM THE SALT OF THIS EARTH!



AND YOU FILTH, YOU CITY SAVAGES--

YOU WILL SEE.



THERE IS A PRICE FOR TREADING TOO CLOSE TO THE *REAL* AMERICA!

YEAH...



...THEY CALLED IT "HEE-HAW."



--ALL UNITS,
RESPOND TO A
VEHICLE BLAZE.
NO SIGNS OF
EITHER
DRIVER.

POSSIBLE
HIT AND
RUN.

"ALL THIS FOR
A GIRLZ!"



I DONE
SOME DIGGING,
TURBO--SHE'S
NOT SO
NICE.

"CARTEL
AFFILIATED
ASSASSIN" WAS
THE SHIT KEPT
COMING
UP.

HER
PEOPLEZ



THEY AIN'T
THE KIND YOU
WANT TO
CROSS!



SO
NATURALLY
I CONTACTED
'EM.

GONNA SELL
'EM THAT HEAD--
GONNA GIVE 'EM
THE NAME O'
YOUR GIRL!

SEE, EVEN
IF SHE GETS
OUT OF HERE--
**SHE'S
DEAD!**

DEAD
BECAUSE
YOU STOLE
MY REP!

LET 'EM ALL
THINK IT WAS
YOU KILLED UP
THAT SCHOOL OF
FUCKERS!



FAME!
I'M GONNA
LIVE
FOREVER!

AND
YOU'RE
GONNA DIE
HERE.

ALL TO
PROTECT
SOME
GIRL.





THIS IS FOR ME.



PEPPERMINT--
NO!



IT HAPPENS TOO QUICKLY.



≡CHOCKK≡
≡FA≡
≡FHAG≡
≡FAGGOT≡

AND HE'S JUST GONE.
NEVER LIKE THE MOVIES.
NEVER ANY REAL DRAMA.



JUST THE END TO
AN INCONVENIENCE.

AND IT
FEELS LIKE
NOTHING.



IS THIS
YOUR
TRUCK?

GUY CAME OUTTA
NOWHERE! PLOWED
RIGHT INTO THE
TRUCK AS I WAS
FINISHING LATE
DELIVERIES!

I WENT TO
PHONE THE BOSS
TO TELL HIM BUT
THERE ISN'T
ANYONE
HOME--



I'M GOING
TO LOSE MY
JOB OVER
THIS!

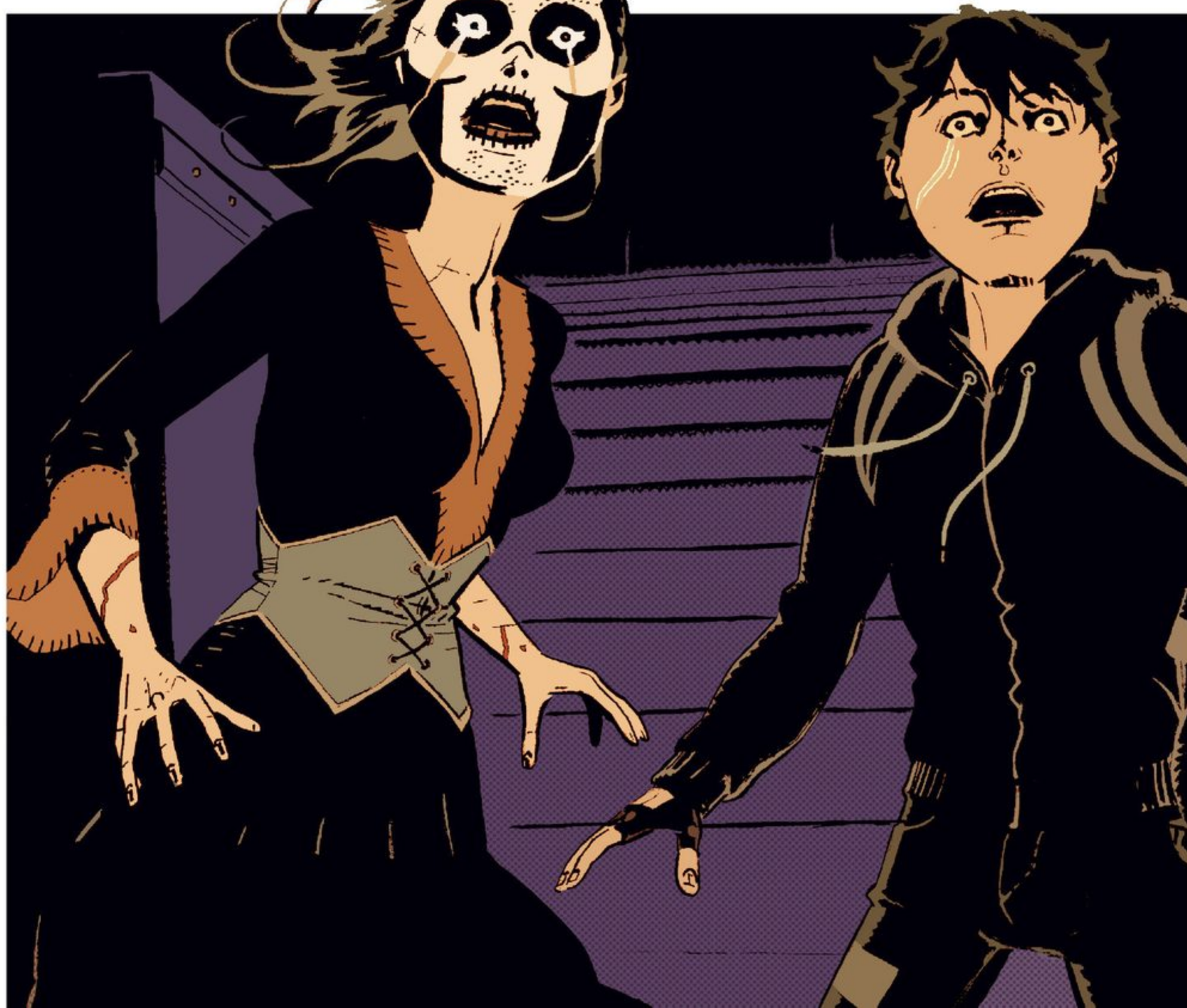
IT WAS
STILL FULL
OF MAIL!

ALL THOSE
LOST LETTERS
TO LOVED
ONES!

CHECKS
FOR THE
NEEDY!







DEAD LETTER OFFICE

RR - It's one of those cliffhangers I almost feel bad about writing. Especially given the next issue is 60 days off. We've been receiving tons of mail from you guys and gals. And in order to get back to as many of you as possible before DEADLY CLASS goes on a bit of hiatus, I'm going to forgo my yammering here and just dive right in.

Dear Rick, Wes, and the rest of the DEADLY CLASS team,

Wow. It's really hard for me to find the words to express just how much I enjoy DEADLY CLASS. I just finished issue #9, and found myself enjoying this issue the most of all, which is saying something considering how much I loved #1-8.

I think my favorite part of #9 was the scene with Marcus apologizing to Shabnam for ditching him to go to the party. Full disclosure: I was Shabnam in high school. The kid people were friends with, but only insofar as they didn't have to make a commitment to hanging out when we weren't at school.

Shabnam's line is EXACTLY what I'd say when friends apologized for, not inviting me to parties and then telling me they sucked: "I just wanted to be invited." That's what it is: being forgotten or discounted sucks, but even more when the person doing it to you is someone you thought was a close friend.

Anyway, enough of all that. I just want to say again that I'm really glad I found DEADLY CLASS. I currently lead a pretty busy life, so I buy the series digitally and tend to read it on breaks between my graduate school classes on my laptop. Every time, as soon as I finish an issue, I always feel such a rush that inspires me for the rest of the day.

Thanks again and keep up the great work!

Best,
Brett S.

RR – I think we've all been Shabnam at one point or another. As a kid, I moved around a lot. It was interesting how in every single new group of friends I landed up, I was assigned to a different role. Group dynamics might fluctuate, but I think we've all played the role of the outcast at some point. The person sitting home on a Saturday night, when everyone we know is at a party we weren't invited to. Shabnam did what a lot of people would, and plotted himself some revenge. More on that in the next arc.

Mr. Remender,

I know many people have said this, but since I'm here I'd like to thank you and the creative team for bringing this book to us. Your writing in this book resonates with me like few other comics do. The "black dog" analogy in issue #7 really struck a nerve, as does the emotional aspect and draw to the characters and their situations. I recently turned 20 so a lot of what goes on in the book is still very fresh (minus the assassinations), and the more internal conflicts like depression still really hit home. While a lot of other comics try to be edgy or thrilling in cheap cliché ways, you can tell this book has been written off of first-hand experiences. While others try to instill fear with serial killers and monsters, you show the most horrifying things of all: being alone, the evil nature of people, not truly knowing those close to you, etc.

The emotions in this book pretty much run the gamut and reading DEADLY CLASS is a cathartic experience for me, similar to how I feel after listening to a record I deeply connect with. Thanks for seamlessly combining two of the only things I truly enjoy in this world: music and comics.

Congrats on almost a year of DEADLY CLASS and here's to many more,

Adam

RR - That's great to hear, Adam. A lot of the dialog in this series, especially Marcus' journal entries, are torn out of old journals I wrote between the ages of 17 and 24. I'm lucky that I have those journals around to turn to now. The way we think changes as we grow older, and I don't know if I would be able to capture what it was like to be that age quite as well without them.

Rick/Wes/Lee/Rus/ Sebastian,

Fuck. I'm writing this having just finished reading DEADLY CLASS #10 on the train home from work on the first day of real snowfall in New York City. You guys made me look like a real asshole on that train.

I've been having a bout of depression the past few weeks, the kind where you don't see an end to it and really who cares because even if it goes away, it's just going to come back. But I'm on the train and find myself laughing admits a congested nose, coughing, and phlegm abound. Loudly. Never have the first ten pages of a comic been so autobiographical for me, all hyperbole intended.

That fucking morning. Your pounding hot head. Waking up in a place, you can't really remember ever arriving at. The beautiful girl next to you that you should feel happy about but instead all you want to do is vomit. And fuck. Work. And you're already late. By two hours. And you're the only one with keys to open the place. Pulling your pants on while running down a flight of stairs hoping it leads to an exit. Making it to the street and trying to find a sign that can help tell you where the fuck you are and how the fuck to get where you need to be. Running full speed with ever leg pump pushing shit down your large intestine. Vomiting on the sidewalk. But you make it. You fucking made it. And your prize? You shit your pants.

This happened to me two years ago as described above when I used to manage Forbidden Planet in NYC after my girlfriend of three years left me and I was squatting in a slum in Bedstuy. It was the worst best time of my life and to know that somebody else got to experience this way of waking up to the world made me happier than I can possibly express. So thanks, guys. You made today worth it for me.

Tyler B. - Brooklyn

RR - When Wes read this he emailed me wondering if all comic book store employees end up shitting their pants at some point. I guess we'll have to take a census at some point. That scene in the comic book store is one of my many memories of the hijinks that took place in the shop I managed. Hopefully, we'll be able to get Marcus back there and do some more. If he survives...

I've written to a comic back page twice in my life and both were to and about DEADLY CLASS. You guys are running IMO hands down the best fuckin' comic on the shelves today and you established that in 10 issues.

The story and some of the more real life things intermingled with the wild fictional story....things like teenage angst, depression, music, and drugs all fit in perfectly in this period piece which is an era I grew up in. The story, the art, everything about this book is perfection and every casual or non comic reader I know, I tell them "Read DEADLY CLASS!"

I don't know the logistics behind this book. I don't know if it's making you guys money or if it's gonna be worth creating this 1-2-5 years down the line, but I implore you guys: please keep this going and don't ever lose the PASSION that I....that WE can all feel

jumping off every page of every issue so far.

WALLY DIGITAL(one happy customer)

RR - Thank you, Wally. The book is doing very well so there is no risk of it going away. It's one of the top-selling trade paperbacks of the year, and the single issues are also selling well. Which is great, because it enables us to relax a little bit. Secure in the knowledge that we will be able to reach the end of our intended story.

Hey, Rick,

Not much I can say about this book that hasn't already been said, but I just got a new tattoo that you might find interesting.

Jacob B.



RR - We're all really flattered that you enjoy the book enough to get Saya permanently etched. It's always amazing when people connect with something that you do to such a degree.

Dear incredible people who made DEADLY CLASS possible,

PLEASE don't let Maria kill Saya. Please.

I know that Marcus and Maria have a sexy chemistry but please give the Saya and Marcus couple a chance. But the preview covers for the next issues aren't very encouraging.

If it still isn't obvious, I am incredibly invested in Saya. She is hot and kick-ass and I have been a fan of hers before I even read your incredible comic. I think that I am beginning to concede to the idea that Marcus and Saya may not become a

couple...So, please, let me down easy.

And, if in your next issue Saya survives, let her move on from Marcus immediately.

Anyway, moving on with our lives, I incredibly, undeniably, majorly love DEADLY CLASS! I am happy that your comic delivered.

P.S. reading your fan's (Ryan L.) letter broke my heart when he said that he wanted Marcus to stay with Maria. He inspired me to write this Saya-centric letter.

Viva DEADLY CLASS! Can't wait for issue # 11! :)

RR - I can make no promises. There are many twists and turns yet to come with that particular dynamic.

Hello sir,

I just started reading DEADLY CLASS recently (I'm slow to pick up many things), and it is quite good. Would I be the first to say I would enjoy seeing this animated? As much as I've found that I do like reading comics from time to time, I really enjoy a good animated series. You can just turn up the sound and get lost in its world.

Since I enjoyed this, I should look for more of your stuff to read. You sir, are good at your profession.

Your new fan,
DeMarcus

RR – We are working on some very interesting things for the project outside of comic books. I don't want to jinx anything, so cross your fingers for us.

DEADLY CLASS Team

I just want to start off by saying I've read a lot of comics in my 21 years of life everywhere from mainstream to indie titles however I'm not sure I've ever been able to identify with a book as much as I have with DEADLY CLASS.

Starting from issue #1, I've been blown away with not only Rick's always-compelling storytelling, but also the amazing and captivating artwork of Wes and Lee, and their unique panel work in every issue. I guess what I'm really trying to say is you guys are all a dream creative team and are kicking ass in the art of sequential story telling! Being young and working in a comic book store I can definitely relate to Marcus

and his misfit band of assassin pals, aside from the whole assassinating deal, but I'm definitely right there with him on being hung-over and responsible for opening a store...maybe not to the extreme of sharting myself in front of everyone, but you get the idea.

Anyway I just really want you all to know what an amazing and really original book you all have on your hands a shining example of what a series should be and my personal favorite. DEADLY CLASS is a book I'm always proactively recommending to readers new and old and after seeing the killer conclusion of issue #10 I can't wait to see what you guys have in store next.

Gentlemen,

I just wanted to say, thank you. Thank you for these strong, feminine characters who have no special powers, just bad-ass skills learned the hard way. They are so very....authentic is the best word I've come up with. There is no other book that I look forward to more than this one each month. Also, double high-five for diversity. It is so very refreshing to read a book embracing multiple cultures without drowning in stereotypes.

I loved #10. I loved that Maria did nothing, said nothing---I just knew she was waiting for the perfect moment and seeing her watching Saya get it handed to her---just, yes, yes, yes. That said, I'm totally Team Saya---and will be waiting anxiously to see where this goes.

Aaaannd then Marcus shat his pants in public and it was AMAZING. I ugly laughed so hard. Thanks for that smelly little truth. You haven't lived unless you've shat your pants in public one good time. Really.

I came across DEADLY CLASS just wandering down a shelf of trades one day and am so thankful now it caught my eye.

Please, can this story never end?
Summer
Neptune Beach, FL

RR - we do have an ending in mind, Summer. But we will not hit it for years. So unless the book's numbers plummet, you should have plenty more of DEADLY CLASS to look forward to. I'm glad that the female characters resonate with you. Aspects of both Saya and Maria are drawn from girls I knew growing up. Maybe they are more relatable because of that.

Remender,

I've tried for a decade now to write about my experiences setting up shows, being in bands, and living almost entirely on things I shoplifted or dumpster dove. Every time I started, I'd stop because it all just seemed so elusive. Every time I'd type the words "punk" or "hardcore" or "DIY" I'd just think "this is contrived. Everyone's experiences linked to those words are different and I'm diluting them."

To me, punk was about being sober but still a threat (more so even than if we weren't). It was about confounding people's ideas of intelligence and how it related to your appearance, politics, and priorities. But to someone else it could mean nihilism or self-destruction. It could be about music or style. The same words and ideas that made me feel accepted could mean something totally different to another reader.

About three years ago I read a comic called *Teenagers from Mars* by Rick Spears and Rob G. I saw a little glimpse of what I feel like DEADLY CLASS adequately brings to fruition. It's the idea that whether it was you in the '80s, Spears in the '90s or me in the early 00's all of us encountered the same lingering gist. We were straight edge or drunks or Smiths fans or black metal nerds, but we all sort of have a through line. I guess all this is my loquacious way of telling you that Deadly Class is more than just a good comic, it has power.

It talks effectively about things that, by their very nature, can be rendered inert by simply naming them. I'm interested in what happens to your students, but I'm more interested in continually feeling connected to other comics' readers who know what you're talking about when you talk about the freedom of slam dancing and the volatile nature of an adolescence on the fringe. So keep it up, I guess.

Matt F.

RR - This letter made Wes and me very happy. We feel much the same way about digging into the scene and discussing it. Punk Rock meant so much to me and changed my life in so many ways. But at a certain point it almost became a trend, like disco, and all of the philosophy and heart was sapped away, for a culture obsessed with dressing up in costumes. People plugged it into the trendy rotation of the Zeitgeist. It became pop.

But if I were to allow the fact that punk has been exploited to kill the appeal of the music I grew up with, that would mean I

was allowing the general perception of something to change its effect on me. And I'm not going to do that. I recognize there's a new generation that see my heroes as washed up old men, but maybe Henry Rollins is the new George Carlin. Anyway, thanks for the letter. It's nice to know it's connecting with the kinds of people we hoped it would.

Okay, so I'm kinda new to comics and I gotta say, it's my favourite entertainment medium right now! I stumbled upon a volume of *Saga* mid-2014 and that's how this whole trip started! I thought that was the best thing I'd ever read and then I read *Fatale*; which I thought was a masterpiece that couldn't be topped. Now, I recently started reading DEADLY CLASS and, god, isn't it the best thing ever?? The connection I feel to these characters is just insane, Marcus is basically the Nicaraguan version of me, Saya is the coolest chick I never met, Willie is the fake-gang banger best friend I never had and Maria, and I don't know how, manages to be so fucking cool. I can really relate to this comic book because I've had similar experiences trying to be "cool" and fit in with the trendy kids, smoking (which I've totally stopped now) binge drinking and other shenanigans that left me really broke and fucked up, I had to beg for money from a stranger to pay for a bus fare once! And note that I'm writing all the way from Nigeria!

It's super hard to get any comics, let alone creator-owned stuff, here in Nigeria but I promise to read all of your other stuff. Also, props to Wes Craig, this dude is a mastermind with the panel arrangement! Loughridge, sick colours every issue, it's hard to imagine how you can achieve so much depth with only one layer of colours. Wooton definitely has a creative way or arranging those bubbles. Shout-out to Girner too, if he's the one reading this. I have no idea what an editor does, but I'm sure you do it well. You guys are a great team. Okay, enough ass-kissing.

I'm starting a webcomic soon, illustrated by me, but written by a friend, and it's heavily influenced by DEADLY CLASS. I don't plan to do comics forever, but I hope one day I'll produce something that's worth you reading!

Bobby
Lagos, Nigeria

RR - Thanks for the kind words, Bobby. It's exciting to know that we've inspired you to make your own comic books. It's a tough industry and a lot of work, but when they

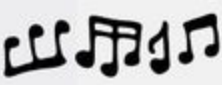
come together and you make a book you're proud of there's really not much else that can compare with it. I wish you the best of luck!

That's it for now. See you again in a couple of months, April, in fact, when we'll have caught our breath and can dive back in with Issue 12. It's the most over-the-top action we've done yet and it will lead to some pretty dire results for our cast. You didn't think we were gonna keep them all alive forever, did you?

- Rick

Here's a mix of my youth that I made to enjoy until next time:

- Eric B. & Rakim • Microphone Fiend
- Hüsker Dü • Something I Learned Today
- Fugazi • Suggestion
- Social Distortion • Mommy's Little Monster
- Public Image • Tenderness
- The Specials • Ghost Town
- The Meat Puppets • Aurora Borealis
- Devo • Freedom of Choice
- The Damned • Machine Gun Etiquette
- B-52s • 52 Girls
- The Waitresses • I Know What Boys Like
- Wire • Three Girl Rhumba
- The Cars • It's All I Can Do
- Violent Femmes • Prove My Love
- See No Evil • Television
- NWA / Eazy-E • Boyz-N-The Hood
- My Bloody Valentine • Cupid Come
- T.S.O.L. • Weathered Statues
- They Might Be Giants • Everything Right is Wrong Again
- Bad Religion • Henchman
- Descendents • Hope
- Jungle Brothers • Whats Going On
- The Smiths • Barbarism Begins at Home
- Camouflage • That Smiling Face
- The Specials • Ghost Town
- Buzzcocks • Everybody's Happy Nowadays
- The Cult • Brother Wolf Sister Moon
- The Cure • In Your House



DEADLY CLASS RETURNS IN APRIL...

REMENDER • CRAIG • LOUGHRIDGE

DEADLY CLASS



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...AND ISSUE #13 HITS SHOPS IN MAY.

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DEADLY CLASS

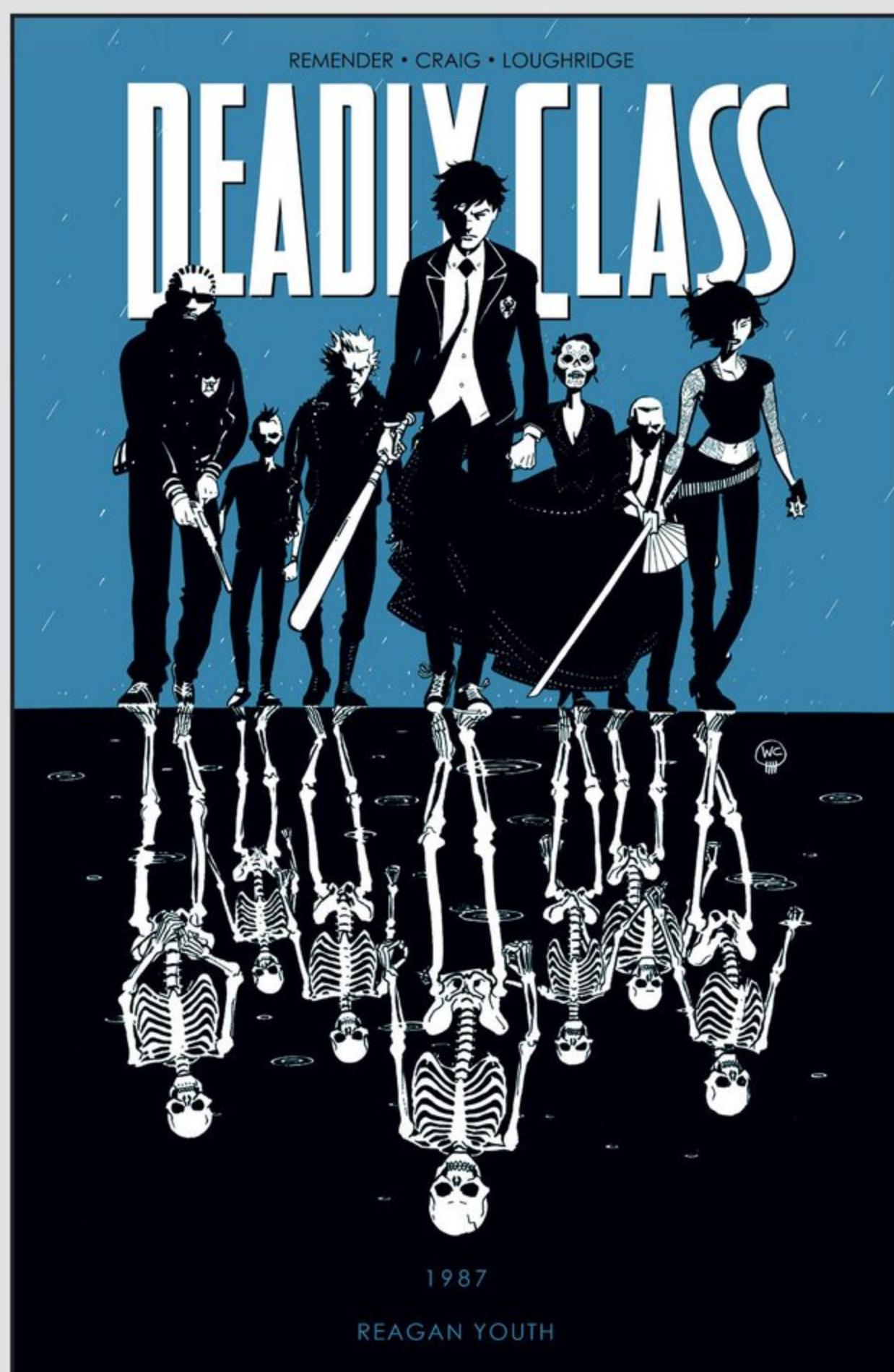


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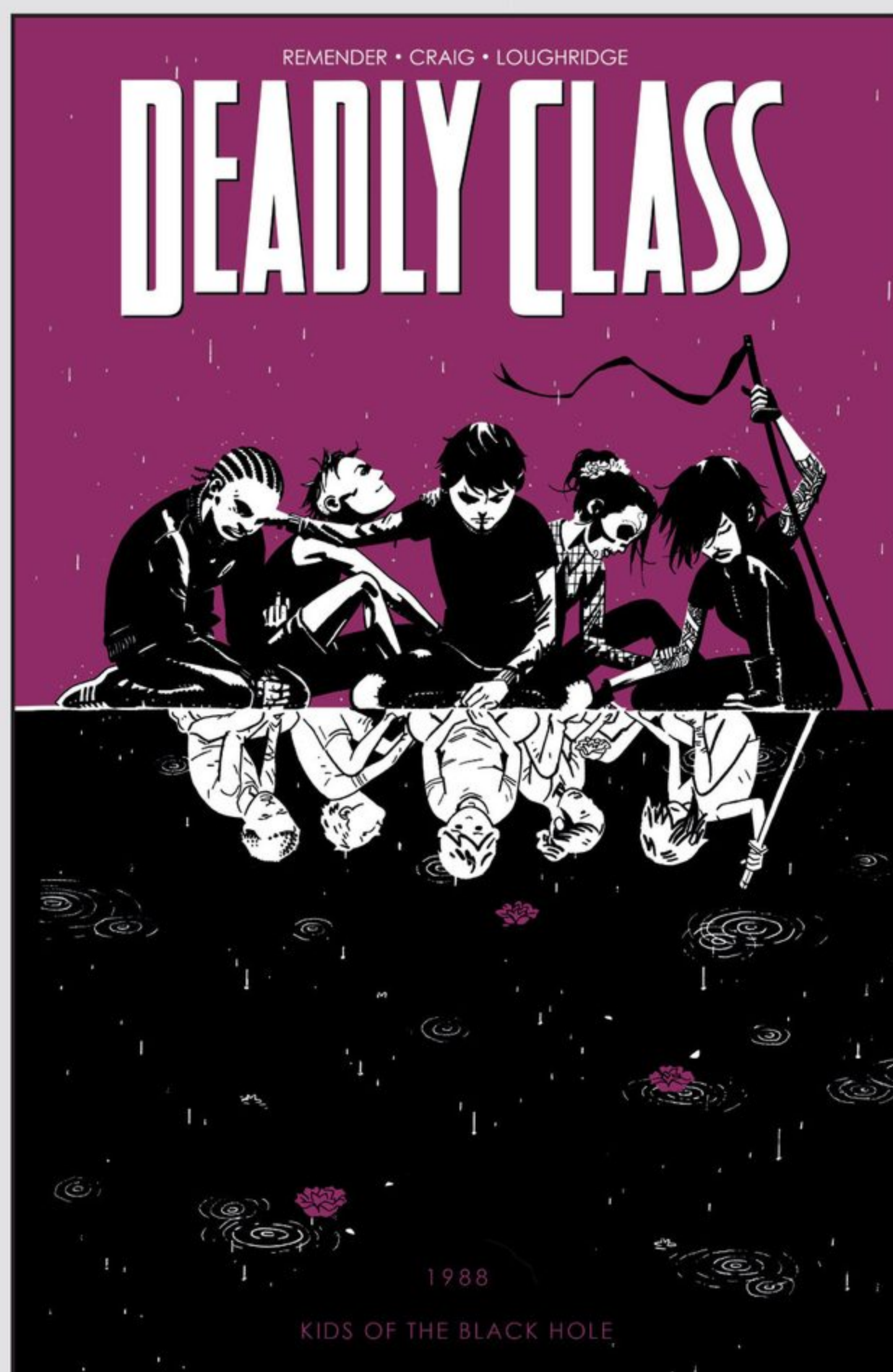
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“Enough good things cannot be said about *Deadly Class*.
It’s a book that can make people fall in love with comics.”
—10/10, Nick Couture, *Comicosity*



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FEBRUARY 2015



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march 2015



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RATED **M** / MATURE